



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mien-chie Hung *et al.* Art Unit : 1642
 Serial No. : 09/637,190 Examiner : Karen A. Canella
 Filed : August 11, 2000
 Title : PREDICTING SURVIVAL OF PATIENTS WITH SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

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Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 2, 2001

In response to the Office Action mailed August 2, 2001 ("Office Action"), please amend the application as set forth below:

In the claims:

Amend claims 11 and 16 as follows:

-- 11. A method of determining whether a subject with squamous cell carcinoma does not have a lymph node containing cancerous cells, the method comprising:

determining a level of maspin gene expression in a biological sample from a subject with squamous cell carcinoma; and

comparing the level with a threshold level of maspin gene expression, wherein a level of maspin gene expression in the biological sample above the threshold level indicates that the subject does not have a lymph node containing cancerous cells.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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